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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BANGKO 06671 241355Z

71
ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 PRS-01 PM-03 SP-01 DODE-00 DRC-01

/054 W
---------- 044422
R 241100Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2688
INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

S E C R E T BANGKOK 6671

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS : PFOR, TH, BM
SUBJECT : BURMESE ALLEGATIONS THAT AMERICANS TRAINED
KAREN DISSIDENTS

REF: BANGKOK 6293

1. TWO THAI OFFICIALS WHO ACCOMPANIED FOREIGN MINISTER CHARUNPHAN ITSARANGKUN NA AYUTTHAYA TO BURMA IN MID-APRIL (REFTEL) TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS SEPARATELY THAT BURMESE OFFICIALS HAD CLAIMED TO HAVE INTELLIGENCE ON AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT WITH KAREN DISSIDENTS. THE BURMESES SAID THAT THREE AMERICANS HAD TRAINED KARENS IN THE USE OF RECOILLESS RIFLES IN MAE SOT DISTRICT OF TAK PROVINCE SHORTLY BEFORE THE KAREN ATTACK ON MYAWADI. ALTHOUGH THE FIRST THAI OFFICIAL, GENERAL KRIANGSAK CHOMANAN, SAID THE BURMESE REFERRED TO THE THREE AS "CIA AMERICANS," THE SECOND OFFICIAL SAID THE BURMESE REFUSED TO DIVULGE THE ORGANIZATION OR THE NAMES OF THE AMERICANS.

2. WHILE WE SUSPECT THAT THE THAI AND BURMESE REALIZE THAT THERE WAS NO USG INVOLVEMENT AT MAE SOT, THE POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT SOME PRIVATE AMERICANS OR OTHER WESTERNERS
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 06671 241355Z

COULD HAVE BEEN ON HAND THERE JUST BEFORE FIGHTING BROKE

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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OUT AT MYAWADI. OUR OWN AND CONSULATE CHIANG MAI'S INVESTIGATIONS THUS FAR HAVE NOT REVEALED THE PRESENCE OF ANY FOREIGN "ADVISERS" IN THE AREA.

3. COMMENT: THE BURMESE CHARGES DEMONSTRATE THE EXTREME BURMESE SENSITIVITY TO FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT WITH BURMESE DISSIDENT GROUPS. MORE PARTICULARLY, THEY SHOW THE CONTINUING SUSPICION OF BOTH THE BURMESE AND THAI.
WE HAVE TO WATCH EVEN OUR MOST INNOCENT STEPS. WE WILL CONTNUE TO ENFORCE OUR RESTRICTION ON TRAVEL WITHIN 20 MILES OF THE BURMESE BORDER BY MEMBERS OF THE U.S. MISSION IN THAILAND, EXCEPT WITH SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATION FROM THE POLITICAL SECTION OR CONSULATE CHIANG MAI.

4. EMBASSY RANGOON MAY ALSO WISH TO COMMENT TO WASHINGTON ON THESE ALLEGATIONS.
KINTNER

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